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CINCUSNAVEUR

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 USNATO 6946

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL NATO

SUBJ: EWG MEETING DECEMBER 18, 1975: ALTERNATIVE PROCEDURES FOR
SPRING DEFENSE REVIEW

REF: A. USNATO 6294 DTG 191130Z NOV 75

B. USNATO 6518 DTG 281430Z NOV 75

C. STATE 297844 DTG 180053Z DEC 75

BEGIN SUMMARY: AT DECEMBER 18 MEETING, THE EWG AGREED TO A "PILOT" PROJECT NEXT SPRING THAT WILL INVOLVE EXPANDED, REGIONALLY ORIENTED PLANNING PROCEDURES FOR NATO SUPPORTING AND OTHER COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS IN AFCENT AND AFNORTH. THE EWG ASKED THE MILITARY AUTHORITIES TO BEGIN PREPARATION OF MULTILATERAL PROPOSALS. THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF (IS) WILL DEVELOP RECOMMENDED PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING MULTILATERAL PROPOSALS CONSIDERED AT REGIONAL MEETINGS. END SUMMARY.

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1. IN INTRODUCTORY REMARKS, CHAIRMAN PANSA CITED PREVIOUS, PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION (REF B) OF WORKING PAPER ENTITLED "ALLIANCE DEFENSE COOPERATION - A POSSIBLE REVIEW PROCEDURE FOR MULTILATERAL COOPERATIVE MEASURES" (AC/281-WP(75)3, QUOTED IN REF A) THAT HAD

FOCUSED ON A "PILOT" PROJECT DURING EARLY 1976 AND ASKED REPS FOR NATIONAL POSITIONS ON WHETHER THE EWG SHOULD PROCEED WITH THE PILOT SCHEME. PANSA SAID THAT IF THE EWG DECIDED AFFIRMATIVELY, THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF (IS) WOULD PREPARE A PAPER THAT DESCRIBED IN DETAIL HOW THE NEW PROCEDURES WOULD "FIT IN" WITH EXISTING PLANNING EFFORTS.

2. NORWEGIAN REP (LEINE) EXPRESSED "FIRM, STRONG" SUPPORT FOR THE PILOT PROJECT AND EMPHASIZED NORWAY'S DESIRE THAT A REGIONAL MEETING TAKE PLACE AT AFNORTH EARLY NEXT YEAR, WITH REPRESENTATION FOR THE US, UK, FRG, CANADA, BELGIUM AND THE NETHERLANDS.

3. FRG REP (BGEN. SCHUNEMANN) SAID THAT BONN "VERY MUCH" SUPPORTED THE CONCEPT OF MORE REGOROUS SPRING PLANNING PROCEDURES AND WANTED PILOT MEETINGS NEXT SPRING IN BOTH THE CENTRAL AND NORTHERN REGIONS. HE SAID THAT BONN BELIEVED PROPOSALS FROM THE SPRING MEETINGS SHOULD "FEED THROUGH" THE EXISTING FALL REVIEW PROCEDURES, BUT THAT BONN HAS NOT YET DECIDED HOW THIS COULD TAKE PLACE MOST EFFECTIVELY. SCHUNEMANN SAID THAT THE PILOT MEETINGS NEXT SPRING WOULD HELP DETERMINE THESE PROCEDURES. HE RECOMMENDED THAT THE SPRING MEETINGS AVOID CONSIDERATION OF SUBJECTS, SUCH AS STANDARDIZATION, WHICH OTHER FORA WERE EFFECTIVELY COVERING.

4. DANISH REP (BELLING) NOTED THAT HIS AUTHORITIES WERE NOT IN COMPLETE AGREEMENT WITH OTHER NORTHERN REGION PARTNERS. HE SAID DENMARK AGREES THAT TRADITIONAL AD-70 REPORTS ARE OBSOLETE; THAT THEY SHOULD NOT CONTINUE IN PRESENT FORM; AND THAT A NEED EXISTS FOR A REVIEW OR FOLLOW-UP PROCEDURE FOR SUPPORTING AND COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS. HE CONSIDERED THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF WORKING PAPER (REF A) A GOOD BASIS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS AND AGREED WITH THE PAPER'S SUGGESTION FOR NEW PROCEDURES TO MAKE MAXIMUM USE OF THE EXISTING DEFENSE REVIEW CYCLE. HOWEVER, DENMARK BELIEVED IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO INCLUDE CURRENT OR FORTHCOMING MULTILATERAL CO-OPERATIVE MEASURES IN THE EXISTING DEFENSE REVIEW CYCLE, AND WAS HESITANT TO ENDORSE A REGIONAL APPROACH. THE DANISH REP AGREED THAT THE NATO REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS MUST BE ASSOCIATED WITH THE PLANNING PROCESS, BUT HE SAID THIS WAS ALREADY THE CASE BECAUSE CONFIDENTIAL

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DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL AND MULTILATERAL FORCE PROPOSALS STARTS AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL. THEREFORE, HE QUESTIONED WHETHER THERE WAS MUCH TO GAIN FROM THE PROPOSED PROCEDURES. CITING THE EXAMPLE OF POSSIBLE MULTILATERAL PROPOSALS CONCERNING RECEPTION FACILITIES FOR REINFORCEMENTS, DANISH REP EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE HIS AUTHORITIES ATTACH TO PROPOSALS OF THIS NATURE, BUT NOTED THAT IMPLEMENTING ARRANGEMENTS WERE LARGELY BASED ON BILATERAL AGREEMENTS. HE SAID HIS AUTHORITIES WOULD NOT EXCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY OF REGIONAL MEETINGS, BUT THEY BELIEVED THIS CONCEPT REQUIRED CAREFUL STUDY. IN ANY CASE, ALLIES SHOULD AVOID IMPOSING GREATER ADMINISTRATIVE BURDERS, FINALLY, HE SAID THAT DENMARK WOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT TO AGREE WITH THE CONCEPT OF A REGIONALLY BASED REPORT TO MINISTERS.

5. NETHERLANDS REP (WYNAENDTS) SUPPORTED THE PILOT PROJECT, SAID THAT IT SHOULD EMPHASIZE "ALLIANCE DEFENSE COOPERATION," AND RECOMMENDED THAT THE REVISED PLANNING PROCEDURES CLOSELY RELATE TO THE EXISTING PLANNING CYCLE.

6. UK REP (PETERS) SUPPORTED A PILOT PROJECT TO COVER BOTH AFCENT AND AFNORTH, BUT CAUTIONED AGAINST CONSIDERING AREAS SUCH AS INFRASTRUCTURE AND STANDARDIZATION DURING SPRING MEETINGS. REFERRING TO THE NEED FOR SUBMITTING A REPORT TO MINISTERS NEXT SPRING, PETERS SUGGESTED THAT SHAPE MIGHT CONSOLIDATE PROPOSALS EMANATING FROM REGIONAL MEETINGS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE EWG, DPC PERMREPS, AND DEFENSE MINISTERS, IN TURN. ASYG HUMPHREYS (DEFENSE PLANNING AND POLICY) RESPONDED THAT SINCE FORCE GOALS WERE "APPROVED" BY DPC PERMREPS AND SUBSEQUENTLY "NOTED" BY DEFENSE MINISTERS, THE EWG WAS "NOT BOUND" TO DEVELOP A REPORT FOR DEFENSE MINISTERS.

7. MC REP (COMMODORE GELUYCKENS) OFFERED "GENERAL SUPPORT" FOR THE WORKING PAPER (REF A), BUT RECOMMENDED THAT SPRING MEETINGS FOCUS ON EXISTING MULTILATERAL FORCE GOALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE SHAPE FLEXIBILITY STUDY.

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8. SACLANT/CINCHAN REP (LTCMDR MACDOWELL -- UK) SAID THAT BOTH SACLANT AND CINCHAN SUPPORTED THE WORKING PAPER (REF A) PROPOSALS FOR REVISED SPRING REVIEW PROCEDURES AND THAT SACLANT WISHED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PILOT PROJECT NEXT SPRING.

MACDOWELL SAID THAT CINCHAN WANTED EXISTING FALL REVIEWS TO MONITOR IMPLEMENTATION OF PROPOSALS EMANATING FROM SPRING MEETINGS, AND THAT SACLANT PREFERRED SEPARATE FOLLOW-UP PROCEDURES FOR MULTILATERAL PROGRAMS.

9. CANADIAN REP (COL. CHILD) SAID HE HAD NO NEW INSTRUCTIONS, BUT REPEATED CANADA'S VIEW THAT SUGGESTIONS FOR REVISED SPRING REVIEW PROCEDURES HAD MERIT SO LONG AS NEW PROCEDURES DID NOT INTERFERE WITH THE NATO FORCE PLANNING SYSTEM. HE SAID HE HAD NO SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS ON THE PROPOSAL FOR A PILOT PROJECT NEXT SPRING, BUT, ON A PERSONAL BASIS, THOUGHT ALLIES WOULD MISS A "GOOD OPPORTUNITY" IF THEY DID NOT HOLD A TRIAL PROGRAM SOON.

10. THE CHAIRMAN SUMMED UP DISCUSSIONS BY NOTING THE APPARENT CONFIDENTIAL

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CONSENSUS TO HAVE A PILOT PROJECT INCLUDING BOTH AFNORTH AND AFCENT, ALTHOUGH SOME REPS HAD DOUBTS ON THE REGIONAL APPROACH. HE ALSO SAW AGREEMENT IN USING THE PRESENT DEFENSE REVIEW CYCLE TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT POSSIBLE, WITH ANY NEW PROCEDURES REMAINING CLOSELY LINKED TO THE EXISTING CYCLE AND NOT INTERFERING WITH OTHER PLANNING EFFORTS IN NATO, SUCH AS THOSE IN THE STANDARDIZATION AREA. CHAIRMAN ASKED THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF TO DRAFT A MORE SPECIFIC PAPER WHICH WOULD ADDRESS PROCEDURAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR HANDLING MULTILATERAL PROPOSALS RESULTING FROM THE SPRING REVIEW MEETINGS. FINALLY, HE INVITED MILITARY AUTHORITIES TO BEGIN WORK ON MULTILATERAL PROPOSALS.

11. AFTER PANSA'S SUMMARY REMARKS, EWG REPS CONDUCTED A GENERAL DISCUSSION OF WHAT SUBJECTS AND PLANNING TIMEFRAME THE SPRING MEETINGS SHOULD ADDRESS. THE SACLANT REP SUGGESTED THAT THE TIMEFRAME SHOULD EXTEND TO, PERHAPS, 15 YEARS, SO THAT PROPOSALS COULD INCLUDE DEVELOPMENT AND PROCUREMENT OF COMPATIBLE EQUIPMENT. ASYG HUMPHREYS, FRG AND BELGIAN REPS CAUTIONED AGAINST ATTEMPTING TO DEVELOP MULTILATERAL PROPOSALS FOR THE LONG TERM. HUMPHREYS EMPHASIZED THAT PROPOSALS ADDRESSED DURING THE SPRING MEETINGS WOULD BE PRESENTED TO NATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION COMMITMENTS AND, THEREFORE, SHOULD BE "RIPE" FOR ACTION IN THE NEAR FUTURE. THE CANADIAN REP CITED NUMEROUS ONGOING PLANNING ACTIVITIES IN THE GENERAL AREA OF NATO SUPPORTING AND OTHER COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS AND ASKED WHETHER EXPANDED SPRING REVIEW PROCEDURES COULD NOT SERVE TO COORDINATE THESE DISPARATE ACTIVITIES MORE EFFECTIVELY. FRG REP RESPONDED THAT SUCH AN UNDERTAKING WOULD BE "TOO AMBITIOUS" AND THAT THE EWG SHOULD CONCENTRATE INITIALLY ON FACILITATING NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION OF MULTILATERAL PROPOSALS. SACLANT REP FORESAW THE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE ON PREPARATION OF MULTILATERAL PROPOSALS; MC REP SAID THAT THE MC WOULD PREPARE SUCH GUIDANCE FOR THE MAJOR NATO COMMANDERS.

12. MISSION COMMENT: EWG REPS DID NOT EXPLICITLY ADDRESS THE QUESTION OF WHETHER REGIONAL MEETINGS SHOULD OCCUR IN BRUSSELS OR AT REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS, ALTHOUGH MOST REPS (NORWEGIAN, IN PAR-

TICULAR) SEEMED TO ASSUME THAT THE MEETINGS WOULD OCCUR AT REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS. US REP (BGEN. SEIGLE) CHOSE NOT TO RAISE THE ISSUE BECAUSE THE SHAPE REP, WHO HAS EXPRESSED STRONG FEELINGS ON THIS MATTER IN THE PAST, WAS ABSENT FROM THE MEETING. WE SUSPECT THAT THE IS WILL LEAVE THE QUESTION UNANSWERED IN ITS FORTHCOMING CONFIDENTIAL

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PAPER ON PROCEDURES, AND THAT THE EWG WILL DISCUSS THE MATTER WHEN IN CONSIDERS THE IS PAPER. END COMMENT.BRUC

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